

the enemy's location is often difficult to acquire, Sergeant Clark played a vital role as the eyes and ears of his team.

Sergeant Clark's dedication and talent earned him a number of awards, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge. He was also a two-time recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, which recognizes exemplary service.

Sergeant Clark and his team were charged with maintaining security in the eastern portion of Mosul, which is Iraq's second largest city and one of the remaining centers of operation for al-Qaida in Iraq. They carried out their mission—one of the most dangerous and important of the war—with courage and tenacity.

As a result of their efforts, security conditions in Mosul have markedly improved, and neighborhoods in the city that were once under control of extremists have been reclaimed and turned over to the Iraqi people. Two days before Sergeant Clark's death, American forces in Mosul killed Abu Qaswarah, the second-in-command for al-Qaida-in-Iraq who coordinated operations in the region. Thanks in large measure to the incredible courage and skill of Sergeant Clark and his men, the tide in Mosul is turning.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that, "the characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity. But when you have resolved to be great, abide by yourself, and do not weakly try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic cannot be common, nor the common heroic."

Sergeant Clark possessed the persistence and dedication to duty that is the mark of a genuine hero. He enlisted at a young age. He deployed and he redeployed. He served every day in Iraq committed to his country, his men, and his mission. He carried out his mission with distinction and honor. He was anything but common, and we are all better for it.

To Sergeant Clark's mother Cherie, his father Bradley, his wife Nalini, his son Lucas, and all his friends and family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss is assuaged by your pride in Michael's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

CORPORAL ADRIAN ROBLES

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of United States Marine Corps Corporal Adrian Robles of Scottsbluff, NE. Corporal Robles died on October 22 from injuries he sustained while supporting combat operations in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

A graduate of Scottsbluff High School, Corporal Robles, who was 21 years old, was an exemplary marine. Throughout his service, which included

a tour in Iraq during 2006, Corporal Robles received three medals of Good Conduct from the Marine Corps; two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; the Iraq Campaign Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; and the Purple Heart.

All of Nebraska is proud of Corporal Robles' service to our country, as well as the thousands of brave men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Corporal Robles is remembered as a devoted son and brother. He is survived by his parents Cesar and Yolanda; sister Beatriz; and stepsiblings Cesar and Ricardo Robles and Yovana Chaparro.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Adrian Robles.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize National Mentoring Month. The designation of January as National Mentoring Month allows us to focus national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, schools and community groups—can work together to ensure brighter futures for our young people.

Mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends and advisers. Numerous studies show that mentors help young people augment social skills, enhance emotional well-being, improve cognitive skills and plan for the future. For some children, having a caring adult mentor to turn to for guidance and encouragement can make the crucial difference between success and failure in life.

As a longtime mentor myself, I certainly know that there are few things more rewarding than making a difference in the life of a child. Mentoring programs are not only advantageous to our students, but they are also rewarding to the mentor. In Delaware, mentoring has become an integral part of our school system and is one of the keys to improving academic achievement among at-risk students.

As Governor, I helped recruit 10,000 mentors as part of a statewide effort and was actively involved in encouraging individuals, churches, service clubs, students and corporations to help mentor Delaware's at-risk children. However, at the national level, 15 million children are still in need of mentors, and it is imperative that we continue to expand grant programs.

I am proud that Congress has been working toward increasing the funding for mentoring. I have cosponsored two pieces of legislation that support mentoring including the Mentoring America's Children Act, which was introduced by Senator CLINTON. This bill is based on joint recommendations of the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the National Collaboration for

Youth. The act would broaden the reach of mentoring programs to include a number of specific populations of young people—including children in foster care and those living in communities with high rates of youth suicide. The Mentoring America's Children Act would also help students gain professional skills by implementing internship programs during the school year.

The second piece of legislation I have cosponsored is the Mentoring for All Act. This bill, introduced by Senator KERRY, would create a competitive grant fund to strengthen and grow mentoring infrastructure across the country and provide additional support and funding to direct service mentoring organizations, both at the national and local levels.

In addition to cosponsoring these two bills, I also signed onto a letter to Senators HARKIN and SPECTER encouraging increased funding for mentoring to be added into the fiscal year 2009 budget. The letter encourages the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to include \$100 million in their appropriations bills for mentoring.

There are literally millions of students in our schools who would benefit greatly from having another positive role model in their lives. I pledge to continue to fight for increased funding of mentoring programs all year, not just during National Mentoring Month. I am proud and grateful to our Nation's mentors who realize that less than an hour of our time each school week can make a lifetime of difference to a child and to each of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIM LITVIN

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, today I rise to make a few comments about a longtime staffer in my office, Tim Litvin.

A native of Manchester and a graduate of Central High School, Tim came to work for me first as an intern from Colgate University and then joined the office full time in 2001. Through his 7 years of service, Tim rose through the ranks from manning the front desk to becoming a legislative aide on critical defense and military issues, as well as on other matters. From making sure our veterans and soldiers received the highest level care and attention, to his work with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Tim gained respect from all those who crossed his path.

In my office, Tim always came to work with a smile, a willingness to help, and a good sense of humor. At office functions in the conference room or on the softball field, Tim would always crack a few jokes among his co-workers, sometimes at his own expense to add a bit of levity. This low-key, low-ego approach helped keep things in the office light and upbeat. Where there was laughter in my office, Tim was usually there and we all appreciated it.

But humor aside, Tim's passion for public service and military matters, especially defense appropriations, has been his strongest attribute. While working full time in my office, Tim attended evening classes at the Naval War College and obtained a master's degree. When Granite State servicemen were recuperating at Walter Reed, Tim would often drive out there, visit them, and make sure that they received the best care possible. Time and again, he went above and beyond the call of duty.

Although Tim's new job will not be taking him too far from the Hill, he will be missed. Whether it be his good cheer, his expertise, or his dedication to service, Tim will be hard to replace. Fortunately, it is good to know that the Federal Government will still benefit from his talents as he works for our men and women in the Armed Forces at the Pentagon. I am sure Tim will make us all proud there and I wish Tim best of luck on this new chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN BAKER

MR. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I wish today to express my deep gratitude and heartfelt best wishes to my administrative director, Lynn Baker, who will be retiring at the end of the month after 27 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Senate.

Lynn is a perfect example of the countless people who serve the Senate as dedicated, nonpartisan employees. Whether it has been as a member of committee staff or in personal offices, the Senate could not function without professional staff such as Lynn Baker.

Over the past 27 years, Lynn has worked with many staff and interns, all of whom have benefitted from her experience, wisdom, and guidance. When asked about Lynn, many current and former staffers will tell you that she is always willing to listen and offer advice. She takes great pride in encouraging junior staffers to develop their abilities and pursue their goals. One former staffer remembers that Lynn made her feel like part of the family when she opened her home to this staffer until appropriate housing could be found. It is no wonder that Lynn stays in touch with so many of those with whom she has worked throughout her tenure in the Senate.

Lynn graduated with a degree in history from Lake Forest College in Illinois, including a semester abroad in Florence. She subsequently worked in a Washington law firm for 2 years before joining Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois' staff on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. During a 7-year period on Senator Percy's staff, Lynn also served as office manager for his personal office before she became chief clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Government Process.

Following a 4-year absence from the Senate, Lynn returned in 1987 as execu-

tive assistant and scheduling director for Senator KENT CONRAD of North Dakota. When she became office manager for Senator Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, Lynn worked closely with senior Disbursing Office staff to develop the first electronic financial management system and time and attendance system for personal Senate offices. Following Senator Hatfield's retirement, Lynn worked as office manager for MAX BAUCUS of Montana before returning to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs as chief clerk in 1998. Lynn was financial clerk of the committee when I assumed the chairmanship in 2001, and then moved to my personal office as administrative director in 2003.

As administrative director, Lynn has made a number of contributions that have helped my office better serve Connecticut. Always open to new ideas, Lynn implemented the acquisition and use of new technologies that enabled my staff to perform their duties more efficiently. She also took the initiative to update and rewrite my office policy manual, and played a leading role in integrating my office with a new software system that will revolutionize the way my staff communicates and works together. Lynn was instrumental in the redesign of my Senate office in 2005, which resulted in an attractive, comfortable, and functional work space.

Lynn has formed many lasting friendships throughout the Senate community, where she is beloved and respected for her character, judgment, and professionalism. I know I speak for my staff and many in the Senate family when I say how difficult it will be for us to bid a fond farewell to Lynn. Her patience, warmth, and wise counsel will be greatly missed. However, we all wish Lynn good health and happiness always as she begins her well-deserved retirement. I know that she has much to look forward to with her loving husband, Steve Nousen, and their son, Daniel Baker.

I extend to Lynn Baker my personal thanks and congratulations for 27 years of exemplary public service to the U.S. Senate.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

MR. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heart-breaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate

and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

We are glad to hear that at least one of our politicians is concerned about how the gasoline prices are affecting the middle class. Most of us feel that our government is extremely out of touch with the majority of the country.

We are retired on a fixed income and we worked hard all our lives and saved to get a motor home for vacations, but unfortunately we now cannot use it because of the price of gasoline and it just sits there. We try to go out shopping for groceries and any other necessities just once a week, making a list of items and stores, color coding so we do not forget anything. The cost of energy also has increased the price of groceries tremendously, so basic foods and produce are the norm—doing away with any treats. We have never seen the price of gasoline increase day by day and a nickel to a dime at a time.

We desperately need to have alternate sources of energy, such as coal, windmills, solar and nuclear. We should have been building new refineries and recovering oil off all of our coasts since the 1970s when this same problem came up at that time, but, to our shame, we did not.

Automobiles should get a lot more than the 35 mpg that we have heard mentioned for future vehicles. It should be at the very least 60 mpg, and there is no reason in this world with our technology that this could not be a reality. Something should be done to increase the mileage on all of the vehicles that are already on the road. This is never mentioned. We cannot just go out and buy a hybrid or other fuel efficient vehicle at the drop of a hat to help the situation. We drive our 2002 Honda 4 cylinder between 55 and 60 mph on the highway to increase our fuel efficiency and you should see the bad looks we get. Highway mileage should be lowered to 55 mph like in the 70s to help conserve.

We do hope that our government does something quickly to improve this situation and that it is not handled like it was in the 70s—all talk and no action. We need to be dependent on no one but ourselves for our energy needs. No one is going to take care of the USA and its citizens but the USA itself. We need some action now—please.

ROBERT & ROBERTA,
Idaho Falls.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your e-letter regarding energy costs and gasoline prices. I agree that we in the US are far too dependent on petroleum for energy. But I think it is a selfish and short-sighted view to defeat the climate change legislation. Our focus should be, as you mentioned, on using less petroleum, not searching for petroleum everywhere we can, no matter the ecological cost. It is true; we do not have good mass transit in Idaho and especially in the more densely populated Treasure Valley. I think tax dollars would be well spent to improve the mass transit situation in the Valley.

We need to give tax incentives to clean, renewable energy sources and rescind the tax breaks given to the huge oil companies who have been reaping record profits at the expense of all Americans. The answer is in conservation which includes improved mass